Leftist Lawyer Causes Day One Mistrial at the First Federal Antifa Terrorism Trial

One of the woke attorneys for an Antifa terror defendant wore clothing with politically-charged messaging to jury selection

ANDY NGO
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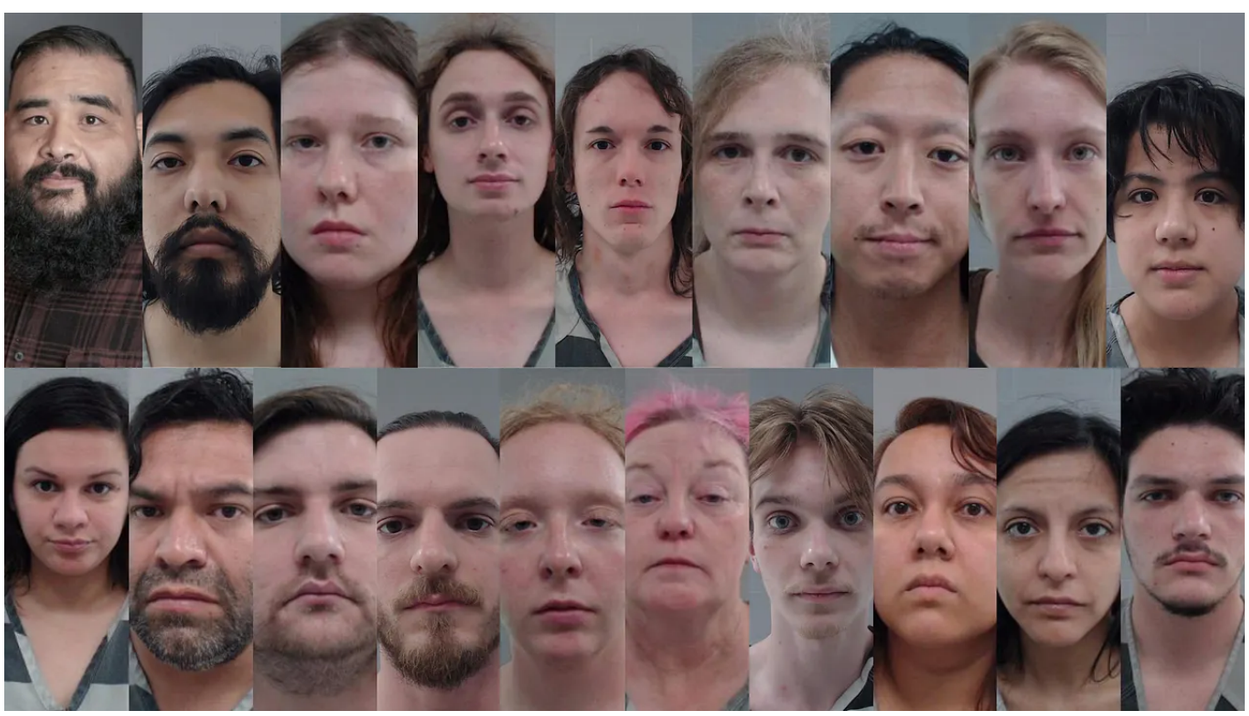


Editor's note: This report has been updated with more information.

FORT WORTH, Texas — A mistrial has been declared on the first day of the historic first federal Antifa terrorism trial after a woke lawyer for one of the defendants engaged in misconduct.

U.S. District Judge Mark Pittman halted the jury selection process after noticing that MarQuetta Clayton, a BLM-activist attorney for one of the defendants, was wearing a politically-charged t-shirt with images of Martin Luther King, Jr. and messaging about civil rights.

Judge Pittman found her clothing could prejudice jurors. His ruling came on the first day of jury selection in Fort Worth, weeks after nine federal defendants were indicted on charges stemming from a July 4, 2025 shooting ambush on the Prairieland ICE facility in Alvarado, Texas. A local police officer responding to the riot was shot in the neck. One of the defendants escaped from the scene, leading to a Texas-most-wanted manhunt for almost two weeks.

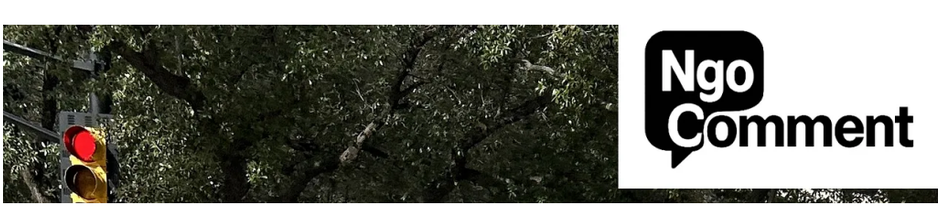
MarQuetta Clayton, who is running to be a judge in Tarrant County, Texas, is a BLM-style activist

Clayton often wears political clothing

“I don’t know why in the world you would think that’s appropriate,” Pittman told Clayton. During her politically-charged questioning of jurors, she mentioned Jesse Jackson’s death, framing her side as being the side of civil rights and justice.

The judge told her that wearing that shirt would be akin to the prosecution wearing a shirt with “Donald Trump riding an eagle with an ICE flag.” It could bias or intimidate the jurors toward a particular view. He said he had never declared a mistrial before today.

Clayton is running to be a criminal court judge in Tarrant County, Texas.



Antifa supporters set up tabling outside the courthouse for their comrades facing trial

Clayton is representing defendant Maricela Rueda. Rueda's co-defendants include several Trantifa activists. Seven other co-defendants have already pleaded guilty and admitted on record that they were organizing under an Antifa ideology. Some of those defendants are expected to be witnesses for the prosecution.

Those facing trial are facing charges of providing material support to terrorism, attempted murder, conspiracy and firearm offenses.

The nine defendants are:

Benjamin Song

Cameron Arnold, a.k.a. "Autumn Hill" (trans)

Maricela Rueda

Bradford "Meagan Elizabeth" Morris (trans)

Ines Soto

Elizabeth Soto

Savanna Batten

Daniel Sanchez Estrada

Zachary Evetts

A new trial date starting over the jury selection process was set for next Monday.

Outside the federal courthouse, a group of far-left Antifa supporters gathered with signage in support of the suspects. Antifa have urged their supporters and members to pack the courthouse during the trial.

The spectator gallery was in an overflow room that displayed a video feed of the jury selection process. The federal court rules do not allow spectators to cover their faces,

which has upset some of the leftist attendees.

Clayton was seen leaving the courthouse with her shirt turned inside out. A later hearing will determine whether her conduct merits sanction.

Antifa accounts advocating on behalf of the terror suspects have responded online to the mistrial by targeting Judge Pittman with unfounded conspiracies that he did it because he didn't like the jury pool. They're trying to solicit gossip and rumors about him to damage his reputation.

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the judge did not like the potential jurors. he is a crook who must be removed from the case. trial to resume next week. everybody who can has to get to fort worth. follow @DFWSupCommittee
9:57 pm · 2/17/26 · 2.3K Views
1
21
79
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@Sycamost · 21h
It's ironic in a sick & twisted way that a trial re: the 1st Amendment (imo!) is declared a mistrial by a judge who can't handle a defense attorney practicing their own 1st Amendment rights. This is bullshit.

DFWSupportCommittee
X.com
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The judge was not anticipating the number of potential jurors who expressed concerns about ICE and the current administration.
10:39 pm · 2/17/26 · 95K Views

DFW Support Committee is one of the Antifa groups supporting the defendants

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Since then, the judge has announced that next week's jury pool will be expanded from 90 to 120 people, which reveals his true motives. He was scared that the jury pool was open to & even supportive of the defense, & he wanted another shot at a more conservative jury.
Stay tuned
4:54 am · 2/18/26 · 782 Views

This is not the first time that an attorney for the defense has been sanctioned. Last month, three attorneys for co-defendant Zachary Evetts were fined $500 each for filing frivolous motions and omitting communications they were ethically obligated to include in a filing.

If you want to attend the trial starting on Feb. 23, and I strongly encourage you to, it's being held at 501 W 10th Street, Fort Worth, Texas, 76102. This case about Antifa terrorism will not get national media attention.